During the Talks with Pakistan, the Prime Minister expressed condolences for the victims of the earthquake of 8th October, 2005, and re-affirmed India's support and assistance to Pakistan. Pakistan's Prime Minister expressed gratitude for the assistance provided by India. He stated that there is trust deficit between India and Pakistan, but added that both the countries are headed in the right direction. Pakistan's Prime Minister also reiterated his country's interest in the Iran-Pakistan-India gas pipeline project. PM reiterated India's concern regarding cross-border terrorism and asked Pakistan to take effective measures to control it. On Pakistan Prime Minister's demand for reduction of Indian troops in Jammu and Kashmir, PM said that this is not possible as long as cross-border terrorism and terrorist violence continue.

Indian stand on IAEA Vienna vote

957. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the recently held Joint Working Group meeting at Tehran Iran's Petroleum Minister has expressed that Iran expects India to make amends if there is a next vote of the IAEA in Vienna scheduled for 24th November 2005;

(b) whether India considers that this statement is linked to the future prospects of the on-going energy dialogue between India and Iran; and

(c) whether India has formulated a strategy to remain passive by abstaining from the forthcoming IAEA Vienna vote?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHMMED): (a) and (b) The 2nd Indo-Iran Special Joint Working Group on Iran-Pakistan-India gas pipeline project was held in Tehran at the invitation of H.E. M.H. Nejad Hosseinian, Deputy Petroleum Minister for International Affairs, Government of Iran on 24th October 2005. The issue of India's vote at the IAEA was not discussed. The Iranian Embassy in New Delhi has clarified on 28th September 2005 that agreements on the LNG deal and gas pipeline between the two countries were "still in force and passing through their normal process".

(c) The IAEA Board of Governors at its meeting on 24th November 2005 also discussed Iran's nuclear issue. The Board reiterated its support for the resumption of negotiations between Iran and the EU-3. No resolution was presented to the Board.